Ban on quacks

†539. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practicing by quacks has been completely abolished in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the alternative arrangements made for the poor, destitute labourers of the forlorn areas who were availing the services of quacks under compulsion of financial scarcity;

(c) the reasons for the number of quacks being on the rise everyday, and whether trained doctors refuse to go to remote and poverty stricken areas, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) According to the provisions contained in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, no unregistered practitioner can practise medicine.

Health being a State subject, State Governments are required to provide for health care facilities for all regions and sections in general and remote areas and vulnerable groups of the society in particular. The State Governments are also responsible for action against the trained doctors who refuse to work in remote the poverty stricken areas. They have been advised from time to time to take appropriate and necessary actions.

Delay in reimbursement of medical claims

540. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that long delays are caused by the Director, CGHS in making reimbursement of medical claims to the retired Government officials causing immense hardships to them;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.